

# THE C4 NEWSLETTER

*Spring 2007*

*Volume 15, Number 1*



AN EXAMPLE OF THE FIRST COPPER COINAGE OF NORTH AMERICA

[EARLY SERIES 4 MARAVEDIES STRUCK IN MEXICO CITY 1536-1538]

## Featured in this issue

- First Copper Coinage of North America
- 17<sup>th</sup> Century Irish Token Recoveries
- Platinum Doubloons
- Coins at Colonial Williamsburg
- French-American Coins (A New Feature)
- Auction Tips
- Counterfeit NE Coppers (Revisited)
- A C4 First
- Early References to Massachusetts Silver
- Earliest Description of St. Patrick Farthing





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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It is my hope that all of you will experience a month of numismatic fun equal to what I have had in April! Between acquisitions, meeting friends at shows, adding new books to my library, lunch with colonial-collecting friends...the highlight of the month was taking a field trip with a friend to do research by viewing contemporary documents from the 1600's and 1700's. The results will be published in the near future. What a great hobby! I'm glad it's no longer the hobby of kings but rather the hobby for all.

I was honored by being quoted in the Editor's column in the *Celator* – a journal of ancient and medieval coinage. Although I own some interesting ancient coins, I don't avidly collect them. Without boring you with details, the editorial just explored how different specialized areas of numismatics have similar mindsets relative to how one collects. Kerry Wetterstrom is the editor.

In this issue of the C4 Newsletter, you will see the start of a new column about French Colonials. This is a wonderful idea and I hope others step to the plate and start columns about their specialties, regardless of how esoteric. Having a feature in every issue gives that collecting niche something to look forward to. Those with the ability and desire, please contact Syd Martin and discuss the possibilities.

Also in this issue is a C4 Finance report. The C4 Auction Revenues for 2006 are not in the report as they were received after January 1, 2007. C4 is sound financially, and I thank Roger Moore for his dedication in keeping all the books and records. Think about the C4 Auction - it is never too early to start thinking about consigning!!!

As I write this message, the EAC Convention is a week from today. I hope to see many colonial friends there. It's not a random choice to have the C4 Convention in the fall – it was done to be on the opposite side of the calendar from the EAC Convention. Thus, there would be two events for us to have fun attending, and six months in between for us to save money to buy coins. C4 spun off from EAC more than 14 years ago, as a specialty club. Before that time, EAC was the only venue for colonial collectors. Now we have two organizations to provide us with hobby enjoyment!

I was talking hobby with Gary Trudgen a week or so ago, and the conversation drifted to the CNL and C4 publications. You know my views on how important it is for colonial collectors to subscribe to both. If you're reading this, you are probably already a C4 member. Are you a CNL subscriber? CNL publishes in-depth research articles that you just can not do without! Elsewhere in this issue is information about CNL; please consider subscribing. If you don't want to part with the \$\$ for a subscription...when that family member asks what you want for your birthday or Christmas, give them the subscription form and credit card...and their shopping is done. I'd like to discuss the importance of joining ANA and ANS, too, but I'll save that for another issue.

Hope to see you in St Louis and look forward to the trip to Eric Newman's Museum!

**HAVE FUN!**

Ray Williams

## THE FIRST COPPER COIN OF THE AMERICAS

(Roger Moore, MD)

As I watch loyal C4 copper maniacs increasing being lured into collecting coins of the baser metals, such as gold and silver, I must reflect that the early coinage of the Americas was generally not copper. Of course by the late 1700s with the formation of the Confederation, use of copper coinage was well established. Earlier settlements, however, had to rely on coins brought from foreign origins for small change; the very first copper coinage authorized in 1682 for use in the fledgling territory (West Jersey) of the country that would become the United States, the Saint Patrick halfpence, were brought here from Ireland. Therefore, for the purist copper collector, the question, "What was the America's first copper coinage?" is not academic. In fact, its answer may stimulate interest in a rarely collected group of coppers - ones that are fraught with low conditions and scarcity.

Most students of the New World would recognize that the first major minting of coinage in the Americas was performed by the Spanish during their extensive occupation which expanded throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America, as well as parts of North America. In fact most of us are aware that copper coins were utilized in the 1500s by the Spanish as they consolidated their territories - the one, two and four maravedies - but rarely come across these coins. In researching the early copper coins of the Americas, it becomes clear that of all the many Spanish minting operations, copper coins were minted in only two locations - Santo Domingo and Mexico City. So which produced the first copper coins?

### *MEXICO CITY MINTAGE*

Mexico City was built by Hernando Cortez in 1523 next to Lake Texococo over the razed ruins of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan. In 1535 Antonio de Mendoza was appointed by King Charles to take control of Mexico City, as well as other extensive expanses of the New World. Viceroy Menandez brought with him an allowance by Queen Johanna, to establish a mint in Mexico City. Minting most likely began in 1536 with most of the effort being devoted to producing silver and gold coins. However, due to a lack of small change, especially for the Indian laborers, it is thought that either in late 1536 or early 1537 the coinage of 2 and 4 maravedies was begun. (Thirty four maravedies was equivalent to one real). The Indians, for which this coinage was struck, viewed copper as an unacceptable coinage and by 1538 the copper coinage was stopped. This early grouping of maravedies was called the "First Issue" (or "Early Series") and they are fairly rare. In fact there do not seem to be any surviving 2 maravedies known. In addition the working of the copper to make the planchets was poorly performed and the planchets tended to split when struck between the dies.

The first issue of the 4 maravedies that have survived have these characteristics (see Figure 1):

Obverse – A large letter “K” is centrally placed with a crown over it. The opening of the crown’s bottom is about the size of the top of the letter “K”, which is characteristic of the early series. To the left of the K is a castle and to the right a rearing lion. A pomegranate lies below the K and a letter “M” representing the Mexico City mint is to the left of the pomegranate, while a series of small circles lie to the right. The obverse has the legend KAROLVS ET IOHANA REGES, though various abbreviations of the title are frequent.

Reverse – The large central letter “I” has a crown over it, as well as a castle to the left and a rearing lion to the right. Below the “I” is the number “4” representing the maravedies denomination. A series of circles can occur on either side of the “4”. The legend on the reverse reads HISPANIARVM ET INDIARVM with multiple spelling abbreviations.

Though the minting of the early series stopped in 1538, Viceroy Mendandez still felt an acute need for small copper change. On June 28, 1542 he ordered a resumption of the minting of copper coins. Once again both 2 and 4 maravedies were minted. He also started a very aggressive campaign to force the Indians to accept the coins. He was met with continued resistance to the point the Indians were defiantly throwing any that they received into Lake Texococo. By 1552 Mendandez gave up the minting of copper coins and interestingly, copper coins were not minted again in Mexico for over three hundred years. This later group of 2 and 4 maravedies is called the “Second Issue” (or “Late Series”).

Characteristics of the second issue of the 4 maravedies (see Figure 2) are:

Obverse – The same basic design as found on the First Issue but with a crown having a wider and flatter base positioned over a more gothic letter “K”. The legend is CHAROLVS ET IOHANA REGES. The “M” mark is to the right of the pomegranate on some of the coins.

Reverse - The same basic design as the First Issue with the crown having a wider and flatter base. The legend is HISPANIARVM ET INDIARVM. There is also the “M” mint mark on the reverse.

Characteristics of the 2 maravedies (see Figure 3) are:

Obverse – In the center is a large pillar similar to the letter “I” seen on the reverse of the 4 maravedies with a large crown on top. To the left of the pillar is the word PLVS and to the right is the word VITR. Below the pillar is a pomegranate. The mint mark “M” can be found over the pomegranate to the left or right. The legend states CHAROLVS ET IOHANA REGES though on

some coins the names of the King and Queen were accidentally omitted and the reverse legend was repeated.

Reverse – In the center is a castle with a large crown over its top. To the left and right of the castle is the “M” mint mark. The legend reads HISPANIARVM ET INDIARVM.



Figure 1 – A 4 maravedies minted at the Mexico City Mint between 1536 and 1538 from the “Early Series”. Note the small size of the oval opening at the bottom of the crown on the obverse above the large letter K. This is an example of the first copper coinage minted in the New World. (from the author’s reference collection)



Figure 2 - A 4 maravedies minted at the Mexico City Mint between 1542 and 1552 from the “Late Series”. Note the large flat bottom of the crown above the large letter K. (from the author’s reference collection)



Figure 3 – A 2 maravedies minted at the Mexico City Mint between 1542 and 1552 from the “Late Series.” (from Syd Martin’s reference collection)

### ***SANTO DOMINGO MINTAGE***

Competing with Mexico for the possible first origination of copper coins in the New World are the more common 2 and 4 maravedies from Santo Domingo. It would seem initially that Santo Domingo would have the edge since it was settled earlier than Mexico City. In fact in 1505 on the orders of the Spanish King Ferdinand, the Seville mint in Spain produced copper coins in the denominations of 1, 2, and 4 maravedies, specifically to be used by the inhabitants of Santo Domingo. (See Figure 4 for an example of a 4 maravedies coin from this group.) This was some thirty years before the Mexican Mint began producing copper coins. Again in 1531 another group of copper coins in the denominations of 1 and 2 maravedies were minted for Santo Domingo but the minting took place at the Burgos mint in Spain. It was not until 1541 that Santo Domingo began its own minting of copper 2 and 4 maravedies. Some 47,000 of these coins were struck with a “K” on one side and a castle on the reverse. However, due to the improper mixing of silver into the copper, most of these coins were recalled and melted. Very few survive today.



A second group of 1, 2 and 4 maravedies was minted starting in 1542. These coins were minted in great quantity but poorly produced with often only partial devices and legends evident. These 4 maravedies are numerous and can be obtained with a variety designs and legends. The 2 maravedies are quite scarce but obtainable and also have a variety of designs and legends. The 1 maravedies are very rare.

Characteristics of the 4 maravedies (see Figures 5, 6) are:

Obverse – Generally, the center design is a bifurcated “Y”, standing for Johanna, with a large crown over the top. To the left of the central device is the assayer’s initial “F” and to the right is the Roman numeral four (IIII), though the sides these are on can be switched. In addition, in some cases the number 4 is used rather than a Roman numeral. The legend spelling varies, but generally is CAROLVS (sometimes KAROLVS) ET IOANNA (sometimes IOANA or IHOANA) REGES (sometimes REGIS, or RE, or REX or REG or R)

Reverse – The central devise is the placement of two erect pillars with small crowns over each pillar and sometimes a diamond between the pillars. To the left of the pillars is the letter “S” and to the right the letter “P”, though these are occasionally reversed and in the case of the letter S is occasionally engraved backward. The reverse legend is typically REGIS ISPANIARVM ET IND, though the legend can vary widely from coin to coin.

Conclusion- - The first copper coins minted in the New World were 2 and 4 maravedies minted in Mexico City during 1536.



Figure 4 - A 4 maravedies minted in Seville Spain specifically for use in Santo Domingo between 1505 and 1510. Note marked differences with the previous Mexican mint coinages as well as the following Santo Domingo coinages. (from the author's reference collection)





Figure 5 – A 4 maravedies minted in Santo Domingo beginning in 1542. Note on the obverse, the number 4 representing 4 maravedies to the right of the bifurcated Y. On the reverse note the letter S to the left and the letter P to the right of the two upright pillars. (from the author's reference collection)



Figure 6 – A 4 maravedies minted in Santo Domingo beginning in 1542. Note the Roman numeral for 4 to the right of the bifurcated Y. On the reverse note the inverted letter S to the left of the two upright pillars and the slightly obscured P to the right. (from the author's reference collection)

Appreciation: A big thank you goes to Ray Williams, C4 President, for his proofing of the paper and Syd Martin for the editing he performed.

References:

- 1) Menzel, Sewall, "Cobs, Pieces of Eight and Treasure Coins," The American Numismatic Society, New York, 2004. (Excellent exploration of the early Spanish colonial coinages)
- 2) Nesmith, Robert, "The Coinage of the First Mint of the Americas at Mexico City 1536-1572." The American Numismatic Society – the Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, 1977. (A classic and must have for the early Mexican cob collector)
- 3) Adams, Edgar, "Catalogue of the Collection of Julius Gutttag comprising the Coinage of Mexico, Central America, South America and the West Indies." New York, 1929. (Interesting insight into one person's collection back in the 1920s)
- 4) Pradeau, Alberto, "Numismatic History of Mexico," Los Angeles, 1938. (Somewhat dated but still contains some interesting information)



## RECOVERY, DOCUMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF TWO IDENTICAL 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY IRISH TOKENS IN BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY (Wayne H. Shelby)

**Introduction:** As an avid metal detectorist for the past 20 years in Southern New Jersey I have meticulously recovered and documented my numerous finds by specific site number. A large portion of this data was previously published with the Colonial Coin Collectors Club Newsletter in the following issues: winter 2003, summer 2005 and fall 2006.

Two of my metal detecting sites in Burlington County revealed identical 17<sup>th</sup> century Irish tokens recovered at the following locations: Site number (15), in Evesham Township, and Site number (34), in Moorestown; interestingly, the distance between the two sites is approximately 9 miles. Figures 1 and 2 show these two tokens, respectively. I have recovered in total only 3 Irish tokens from my present accounting of 76 sites and 1,184 dug colonial, foreign, confederation and early American coins. However, my main

focus with this study is to compare the coins, artifacts and my visual observations of the two sites to reveal the possible intent and purpose surrounding these mystifying tokens.

Practically all counties in Ireland issued tokens in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and approximately 800 different types exist from numerous locations. Most Irish tokens are attributed to merchants, though some were issued by a town; however, collectors of Irish tokens consider nearly all to be rare. My identical recovered pieces, known as Williamson Number 482, exhibit the following markings: Obverse: The legend "Will Stanly of Galway" around the date "1659". The "1d" divides a pair of lion heads positioned over the date. Reverse: The Arms, a chevron between three deer heads situated above and three lions below. The weight and diameter for each of the recovered Irish tokens are as follows:

Site #15, Evesham Township, NJ: (22.5 grains, 18.8 millimeters).

Site #34, Moorestown, NJ: (25.7 grains, 19.0 millimeters).

Table 1 lists my recoveries from each site "side by side" so comparisons can be made between the coins, tokens and artifacts. My visual observations are also documented to provide further insight into the past history of the two locations. The makeup of coins and tokens recovered from the two sites are nearly identical by type, denomination and ruler. Recovered artifacts and visual observations indicate each location was settled approximately the same time period.

Table 2 lists my recoveries of Irish coins and tokens, from all sites I have hunted in Burlington County up through 7 December 2006, by count, type, denomination and by overall percentages. 12% of recovered colonial, foreign and confederation coins are Irish. These data reveal our acceptance and dependence on Irish coins throughout this region.

An evaluation of the presented data indicates the two Irish tokens circulated in this part of Burlington County, New Jersey and passed as small denomination change. Confirmation of this conclusion is provided below:

### **Conclusion:**

Each site appeared in existence before the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the inhabitants at each location engaged in similar acts involving trade, commerce and general living conditions. Individuals of the time period relied heavily on small denomination change for transactions and readily accepted the abundant English and common Irish coins circulating in this region at the time. Since practically all Irish tokens are considered rare and two identical pieces were recovered, one from each site being 9 miles apart, it becomes apparent they, too, were a welcome medium for exchange. It is probable they were brought to colonial America together, only to be separated during their circulation. A lesser probable scenario is that they were brought here individually.



FIGURE 1. The Token Recovered from Site #15 (3 x actual size)  
(Photo courtesy of Roger Moore)



FIGURE 2. The Token Recovered from Site #34 (3 x actual size)  
(Photo courtesy of Roger Moore)

<b><u>Site #15 Evesham Twp., NJ</u></b>	<b><u>Site #34 Moorestown, NJ</u></b>
<b>(Recovered Coins/Tokens)</b>	<b>(Recovered Coins/Tokens)</b>
<b>1659 Irish Token</b> (Will Stanly of Galloway)	<b>1659 Irish Token</b> (Will Stanly of Galloway)
<b>1694 English Wm. &amp; Mary halfpenny</b> <b>No date English Wm. III halfpenny</b> <b>1724 English George I halfpenny</b> <b>1781 Irish George III halfpenny</b> 1797 U.S. half cent 1801 U.S. large cent Non attributable halfpenny size copper Non attributable halfpenny size copper Non attributable halfpenny size copper Non attributable halfpenny size copper Non attributable halfpenny size copper	<b>No date Tin English Wm. &amp; Mary halfpenny</b> <b>1698 English William III halfpenny</b> <b>1737 English George II halfpenny</b> <b>1787 New Jersey copper</b> 1794 U.S. large cent 1816 U.S. large cent 1818 U.S. large cent 1825 U.S. half cent 1827 U.S. large cent 1834 U.S. large cent 1850 U.S. large cent 1856 U.S. large cent
<b>(Recovered Artifacts)</b>	<b>(Recovered Artifacts)</b>
Approximately 45 buttons: Mostly spun back or brass with no back marks, circa: 1740-1795 Few vent back, circa 1700-1765 One early 1700's style solid pewter button.	Approximately 20 buttons: Nearly half being Spun back or brass with no back marks, Circa: 1740-1795. Remainder buttons back marked, Circa: 1795-1840.
Cuff link with anchor 2 design cuff links, circa: 1750-1775	Solid silver design shoe buckle: 3-1/4" length by 2" width, Circa: 1760-1780.
<b>(Visual Observations/Past History)</b>	<b>(Visual Observations/Past History)</b>
Probably a house-site at one time, large concentration of brick, redware, black glass, oyster/clam shell.	Probably a house-site at one time, large concentration of brick, redware, black glass, oyster/clam shell.
Approximate Circa: Pre 1740 to the first decade of the 1800's. (Estimated by site recoveries)	Approximate Circa: Pre 1750 to early 1860's (Estimated by site recoveries)
<b>Note:</b> A dateless English William III halfpenny and five additional buttons listed above under Site #15 were recovered after after my article in the Summer, 2005, C4 Newsletter.	

**TABLE 1. LISTING OF IRISH COINS AND TOKENS  
RECOVERED AT SITES #15 and #34**

**RECOVERED IRISH COINS & TOKENS AT PRESENT COUNT: (64)****Halfpennies:**

James II halfpenny	1
William & Mary halfpenny	3
George I halfpenny, Wood's Hibernia	23
George II halfpenny	14
George III halfpenny	<u>16</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>57</b>

**Farthings:**

George I farthing, Wood's Hibernia	1
George II farthing	1
George III farthing	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3</b>

**Gunmoney:**

James II crown overstruck 1/2 crown	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1</b>

**Tokens:**

Will Stanly of Gallway	1
Will Stanly of Gallway	1
Atkinson (remainder illegible)	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3</b>

**The following percentages are based on 551 recovered colonial foreign and confederation coins. (this number excludes U.S. Mint coins)**

<b>Total Irish coins &amp; tokens recovered at present:</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>12%</b>
Total Irish halfpennies:	57	10%
Total Irish farthings:	3	<1%
Total Irish gunmoney:	1	<1/2%
Total Irish tokens:	3	<1%

**Note:** The above listing of Irish George II and Irish George III halfpennies may include counterfeits not identifiable due to corrosion.

**TABLE 2. NUMBER OF IRISH COINS RECOVERED BY TYPE,  
AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOVERIES**



## PLATINUM DOUBLOONS

(Marcus Mayhugh)

The counterfeiting of coins during the American colonial period was of epidemic proportions. This nefarious industry was relatively successful due to several factors, mainly, the ignorance of the populace and the diversity and unfamiliarity of the coins then in circulation. The gravity of the situation is very well illustrated and best summed up by Robert Morris in a letter to the Continental Congress.<sup>1</sup> Morris states:

...the practice of counterfeiting is coeval with that of coining. No government can guard its subjects entirely against the wicked ingenuity which has been exercised in this respect. But it has always been the object of every wise government to take all the precautions against it which are within the compass of human ability. These precautions will be most effectual where the coins are so numerous that knowledge of them is a kind of science, the lower order of citizens are constantly injured by those who carry on the business of debasing, sweating, clipping, counterfeiting, and the like. It is therefore to be lamented that we have so many different coins in the United States.<sup>1</sup> There can be little doubt that knowledge of the many diverse coins in use was, indeed, a kind of science, with only a few having possession of it.

The most frequently encountered counterfeit coin in colonial times was probably the British halfpenny, and although their production warranted more severe penalties, there was no shortage of spurious Dutch lion dollars, French ecus, and Spanish eight reales. The pinnacle of counterfeiting, however, and perhaps the most dangerous and deceptive, was that of the Spanish "Onza"<sup>2</sup>. This particular coin was also known as *doblon de ocho*, eight escudos, and the quadruple pistole, but it has most firmly and affectionately been enshrined in colonial lore simply as the gold doubloon. That doubloons are part of folk history is evidenced in our favorite literature. The doubloon is mentioned over 10 times in *Treasure Island*, and Captain Ahab nails a doubloon to the mast as reward for the first to sight the great whale. The fact that American silversmiths Ephraim Brasher and Standish Barry<sup>3</sup> manufactured their own counterfeit onzas only adds to the mystique of the doubloon.

Because of the extremely high value of the doubloon, equal to 16 silver dollars, it would have proved very injurious for a merchant should he be unlucky enough to receive a counterfeit piece in a business transaction. Fortunately for earlier colonial merchants, there was little chance of this happening, the lesser metals being unable to mimic the weight and density of gold. A good eye, and a good scale easily protected them from fraud of this sort. But suddenly this all changed in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the discovery of platinum. Platinum was a metal that could easily disguise itself as gold and could be acquired quite readily by counterfeiters. Hans Schulman and H.W. Holzer describe platinum as such:

All through the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the metal was used, mainly for two purposes, by governments to make assay or pattern coins in a metal similar to gold in weight

and qualities, but much cheaper (as it then was) and by counterfeiting rings for the same reasons, cashing in on the considerable difference between the value of platinum and gold at this time. These counterfeits were usually well struck and the platinum gilded after striking, then passed into circulation.”<sup>4</sup>

It is ironic to note that today platinum has not only surpassed the value of gold, it has nearly doubled it.

Although Schulman credits the discovery of platinum to the Russians, Mendel Peterson credits the discovery to the Spanish in the region of what is now Columbia around 1750.<sup>5</sup> The Spanish, mining the Pinto River, were annoyed with the heavy, grey substance collecting in their gold pans and they cast it aside. They named the metal Platina del Pinto, a derogatory term meaning “little silver.” At the time, they had no idea of its properties and eventual value. Peterson, like Schulman, also believes that platinum’s first use was to serve as a material to counterfeit gold “its weight and fusibility made it ideal for this purpose.”<sup>6</sup>

An interesting site on the internet by “Stillwater Palladium” agrees with Peterson that the Spanish were the first to discover platinum.<sup>7</sup> They claim that platinum was first discovered as early as 1557, but that scientific investigation of the metal did not occur until 1753 when a bag of platinum was sent to Spain. There it was examined by an Irish naturalist by the name of William Bowles, who was working for the Spanish. Bowles immediately made some very insightful observations:

Platina is a metallic sand that is *sui generis* which can be very pernicious in the world because it mixes easily with gold and because though by chemistry it is easy to find the means of recognizing the fraud and of separating the two metals, since this means would be available only in the hands of a few people and as cupidity is a general malady, temptation seductive, the means of deceiving easy and in everybody’s reach, there can be great danger in letting platina loose in commerce.

In short, the Irish scientist very quickly recognized that platinum could serve as a dangerous substitute for gold and as a consequence Spain strictly forbade the export of platina.<sup>8</sup>

Despite their best efforts to keep platinum a secret, word was soon out and counterfeit onzas begin turning up, although this took several years to occur. The delay was probably due to the extreme hardness of platinum which would have required some expertise to master. An 1873 notation describes platinum in this manner:

Platinum is the Chemists potmetal, In color is bright white, and never tarnishes. In any case in pure dry or moist air twill not oxidize or fuse in a blacksmith’s fire, and melts only by the heat of compound blowpipe flame, or electricity. At high temperatures it will weld like iron and may then be compacted. Whether hot or cold tis very mallable.<sup>9</sup>

Another contemporary description had this to say about the metal:

It cannot be affected by a simple acid, or by any known solvent, except the *agua regia*; it will not tarnish in the air, neither will it rust, it unites to the fixedness of gold, and to the property it has of not being susceptible to destruction, a hardness almost equal to iron, and a much greater difficulty of fusion....Upon the whole, from considering the advantages of the platina, we cannot but conclude that this metal deserves, at least, from its superiority to all others, to share the title King of Metals of which gold has so long been in possession.<sup>10</sup>

Obviously some skill was required to work with this new metal.

Because platinum was only discovered in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, and considering the time it took to master the metal, coupled with the fact that counterfeiters generally copy the most current and common coin in circulation, most counterfeit platinum doubloons are of the bust type. Of the referenced examples of platinum counterfeits that I have found only a very few are of the earlier cross type, and while the dates of counterfeit coins are quite capricious and arbitrary, we see a steady rise in later dated fake platinum doubloons. For example, Coronado lists only one early dated platinum 8 escudos, a 1715 piece of Felipe V, yet during the reign of Charles III, 1759-1788, 10 of the 19 fake doubloons he lists are made of Platinum.<sup>11</sup> Ferran and Xavier Calico list over 30 counterfeit platinum doubloons, with the earliest date being 1768,<sup>12</sup> and Schulman lists 8 fake platinum doubloons with the earliest date being 1763.<sup>13</sup> By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, counterfeit onzas of platinum were becoming quite common as knowledge of the metal and its suitability for counterfeiting became better known.

As the 19<sup>th</sup> Century rolled around we also find more documentation on platinum counterfeits. While I found no references of a doubloon counterfeiting ring, a very interesting and insightful account of a French counterfeiting operation has surfaced. This description is credited to the French historian Auland and was found on an internet site devoted to Napoleonic medals.<sup>14</sup> The following is that account in full:

I came across an account in Auland, *Paris sous le premier empire* vol. 1 p738 of counterfeit coins using platinum. Auland quotes a police report of 5 floreal AN XIII (25 April 1805): "We have discovered and arrested the makers of counterfeit gold pieces of 24 and 48 livres which during the past eight years have been put in circulation in various departments of the Empire and even in Paris. The presses, the dies, the prepared blanks, platinum, gold dust and leaves, seventy six well made pieces and twenty others which had been set aside because of some defects, and all of the tools necessary for the work have been seized. The individuals are Quartier, a self-styled businessman; Moisson, engraver; Senat, mechanic and machinist; and Brasseur, jeweler. The factory, which has often been moved, was last located in the small isolated house where we found it, on the left in front of the Sevres Bridge, on the road from that community to Boulogne. We succeeded in extracting from Quartier, the head of that company, all the possible facts and very detailed information on the means employed to put them in circulation; he indicated that the emitters were six money changers working in Paris and declared

that it was mainly through the cattle buyers who supply Paris that they get their false pieces into circulation in the departments. These pieces are made of platinum covered with gild, of which they contain three livres worth at the very best. We are working on the indictment; these four accused, as well as those who are going to be arrested, will immediately be brought before the criminal and special court of justice with their accomplices, the emitters already arrested in Paris and Limoges.

The police reported in 4 August 1805 that Senat, Quartier, Brasseur, Dubois, and Keller were condemned to death for having counterfeited, eight distributors were condemned to fifteen years in chains. Nine other people involved in the case were acquitted. The five were executed on 9 August 1805.

While reading this account two things immediately come to mind: first, the complexity and sophistication of the counterfeiting ring, and secondly, the severity of the penalty, and the speed with which it was carried out. That this ring existed for eight years before being brought to justice attests to the skill and sophistication of the operation that employed a machinist, an engraver and a jeweler. The utilization of the cattle buyers to get fake money into circulation was ingenious and is one of the first records of this sort of activity. A counterfeiting ring of this magnitude must have pumped thousands of dollars worth of fake money into the French commerce. The French apparently took a dim view of this sort of crime, taking only four months to try, convict, and execute the perpetrators.

Similar counterfeiting organizations like the one described above must also have existed for making fake doubloons, for they are very deceptive. Glancing through the Calico book, one can easily see the sophistication and the technology required to make one of these counterfeits. While it is true a few are crude, and obviously fake, most appear to be genuine and only careful scrutiny would reveal their spurious nature. [See Figure 1 for an example of a counterfeit doubloon dated 1805.]



Figure 1. A Counterfeit Platinum Doubloon



Surely hundreds of counterfeit platinum doubloons existed at one time, yet they appear quite scarce today. Perhaps they were melted down when the price of platinum rose to a level above gold. I know of only two auction appearances of a fake platinum doubloon and one which was offered for sale in a FPL. NASCA offered one for sale, in the Montreal sale (5-7 December 1979, lot 916). It was holed and plugged with gold. The coin was boxed and estimated at \$1,000. Some interesting comments accompanied the description including the statements "that it was so skillfully copied that we suspect a European or American [??] origin." Platinum forgeries of U.S. and Spanish American coins are exceedingly rare. A number of dates and types are known, but it would be surprising if a second example of any platinum forgery would surface." Another, an 1805 dated counterfeit platinum onza was sold in a fairly recent Ponterio sale, Lot #138.

In closing, the Spanish doubloon is one of the most interesting and revered coins in colonial American history; and, like most other coins of the time, failed to escape the notice of counterfeiters. Once the metal platinum was isolated, counterfeit doubloons became much more deceptive and defrauding merchants became much easier. In an ironic twist of fate, platinum was to become more valuable than the metal it was meant to imitate and some, the French counterfeiters, for example, lost their lives for replacing gold with a metal which would eventually have twice its value.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Robert Morris to the Continental Congress. "American Memory: A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation" U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates"

<sup>2</sup> The Onza is a Spanish unit of weight equal to 1/8 part of a gold or silver mark = 28.7558. The weight of one escudo was 3.383 grams which times 8 (8 escudos) equals 27.069. The difference in weight between the 8 escudo and the the onza was apparently ignored or overlooked by the public and merchants alike. Ralph Gordon, in his book "West Indies Countermarked Gold Coins" 1987, had this to say, The Spanish sometimes called their 8 escudos an onza but this was flattery; it was well short of even a Spanish ounce.

<sup>3</sup> "Eliasberg Prices Stuns Numismatic World", <http://www.ngc.com>. This article also appeared in Stack's Coin Corner.

<sup>4</sup> Schulman, Hans & H.W. Holzer. "The Coin Collector's Almanac" New York 1946.

<sup>5</sup> Peterson, Mendel. "The Funnel of Gold: The Trials of the Spanish Treasure Fleets as they carried home the Wealth of the New World in the face of Privateers, Pirates and Perils. 1975

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> Most of this information appears to have derived from Donald McDonald's "A History of Platinum", Great Britain, 1960, the definitive work on Platinum.

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*

<sup>9</sup> Sellars, J. Carrington. "Chemistianity, (Popular Knowledge of Chemistry); A Poem; also an Oratorical Verse on each Known Chemical Element in the Universe, Giving description, Properties, Sources, Preparation and Chief Uses". 1873.

<sup>10</sup> Peterson, p.48

<sup>11</sup> Coronado, Luis Barrera. "Catalog General de la Moneda Falsa Espanola" 2000

<sup>12</sup> Calico, Ferran and Xavier. "The Onza, Main Book: (The Gold Doubloon of Eight), Spain, Provinces and Independent Republics of America. Counterstamps and Counterfeits. 1611-1873 1986

<sup>13</sup> Schulman

<sup>14</sup> <http://fortiter.napoleonicmedals.org>

## TWO NEW COLONIAL COIN EXHIBITS FROM COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

For all of you that have asked me “when are you going to get some coins on display down there,” I have good news! Thanks to Joe & Ruth Lasser, we have opened not one, but two coin exhibits, one very much real, and the other virtual.

The “live” exhibit is called *Pounds, Pence & Pistareens, The Coins & Currency of Colonial America*, and it can be seen in the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum (enter through the Public Hospital of 1773) on Francis Street between Nassau and South Henry Streets in Colonial Williamsburg. (See Figure 1) There are somewhere between 500 and 600 items on display, telling the story of coins & paper money in the American colonies from 1492 until the American Revolution. To whet your appetites, some highlights include;

- ALL of the Lasser Massachusetts silver collection (See Figure 2)
- The best of our archaeological coin collection
- 90 Virginia halfpennies excavated in Colonial Williamsburg
- Dozens of Spanish American gold & silver coins spanning from 1535 to 1780
- Many specimens of pre-1750 Colonial currency
- Tons of other superb numismatic material

While we don’t have a date for the closing of the exhibit, it is my guestimate that it will be up until at least the end of 2008.

For those of you who can’t make it to Virginia to see it in person, you can visit the online version, *Coins & Currency in Colonial America*, on your computer. With dozens of pieces discussed, the virtual coin exhibit allows you to blow the images up to dinner-plate size in crystal clarity, has loads of contextual information, fascinating sidebars, and covers the same numismatic territory as the live version at the Museum. The exhibit can be explored at:

[www.history.org/coins](http://www.history.org/coins)

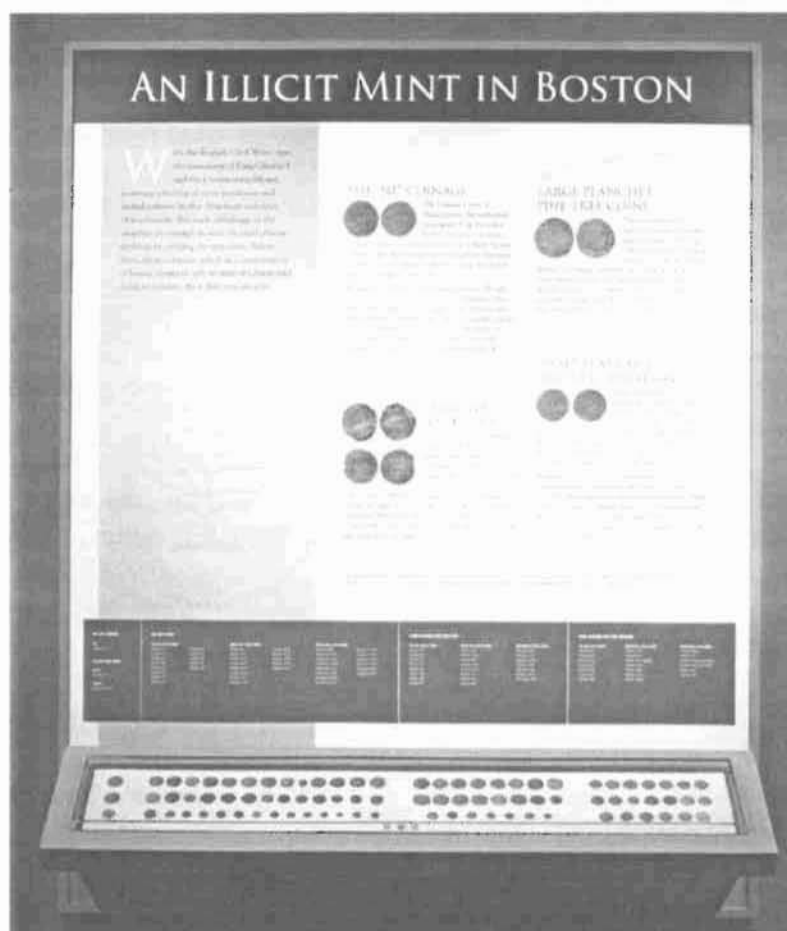
So please check them both out – and do give me a ring when you are in town!

Erik Goldstein  
Curator of Mechanical Arts & Numismatics  
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation





**FIGURE 1. THE POUNDS, PENCE, AND PISTAREENS DISPLAY**



**FIGUER 2. THE MASSACHUSETTS MINT DISPLAY**

## THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CORNER

(Sydney F. Martin)

For reasons outlined below, I believe coins made for, made in, or used extensively within French North America should be accorded status as U.S. Colonials. As editor, I've made a decision to have a French-American Corner in each upcoming issue of the Newsletter – a column that typically won't be more than a couple of pages long. It will deal with a wide range of topics, from new discoveries, to hoards, to classifications, to general discussions. It is my hope that C4 members will contribute to this column by submitting articles of interest, questions, research results, or the like, and I invite any of you with an interest in this area of colonial numismatics to do so.

### WHY HAVE A COLUMN?

#### 1. Introduction

If one wishes to consider as U.S. colonial coins those coins

- (1) made within the borders of what is now the United States,
- (2) made elsewhere with the intent of being circulated in what is now the United States, and
- (3) circulated within what is now the United States in large quantities through formal and/or informal importation,

and, placing an arbitrary cut-off date for such U.S. colonial coins of 1800, one must then accept that French colonial pieces form a major part of the corpus of U.S. colonial coins. Simply put, large portions of what is now the U.S. were under French control/ownership for long periods of time.

The purpose of this initial column is to substantiate this by examining, against a backdrop of a modern, outline map of the United States, the lands owned by France as a function of time.

#### 2. Early French Claim

In 1534, Jacques Cartier was sent by King Francis I of France to explore and colonize what is now lower Canada. He entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in 1635 proceeded upstream as far as present Montreal. Settlements were slow in developing, and not too much occurred until more through explorations began in 1603.

In this year, Samuel de Champlain sailed up the St. Lawrence, in essence tracing the path of Cartier. In 1604 Champlain traveled to the Bay of Fundy and helped found the first permanent French settlement, in what is now Nova Scotia. In 1608 he again traveled up the St. Lawrence and founded a settlement at Quebec. Until his death in 1635

he worked to develop the lower part of Canada as a French Colony. [The upper areas, around Hudson Bay were claimed by the English by dint of early explorations.]

On the political scene, the 30-Years War (1618-1648) was in progress, and control (if not legal ownership) of the lower portion of Canada was contested between France and England – often on the battlefield. However, as a result of the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, signed in 1632, England acknowledged French ownership of lower Canada. The land in question was basically the area of the St. Lawrence watershed.<sup>1</sup>

So, Figure 1<sup>2</sup> shows the situation just after 1632. Note that large areas of the North American continent were unexplored, with Spain holding much of what is now the southwestern U.S. and a part of current-day Florida, England holding the east coast with claims across the center of the country, and France holding the St. Lawrence watershed.

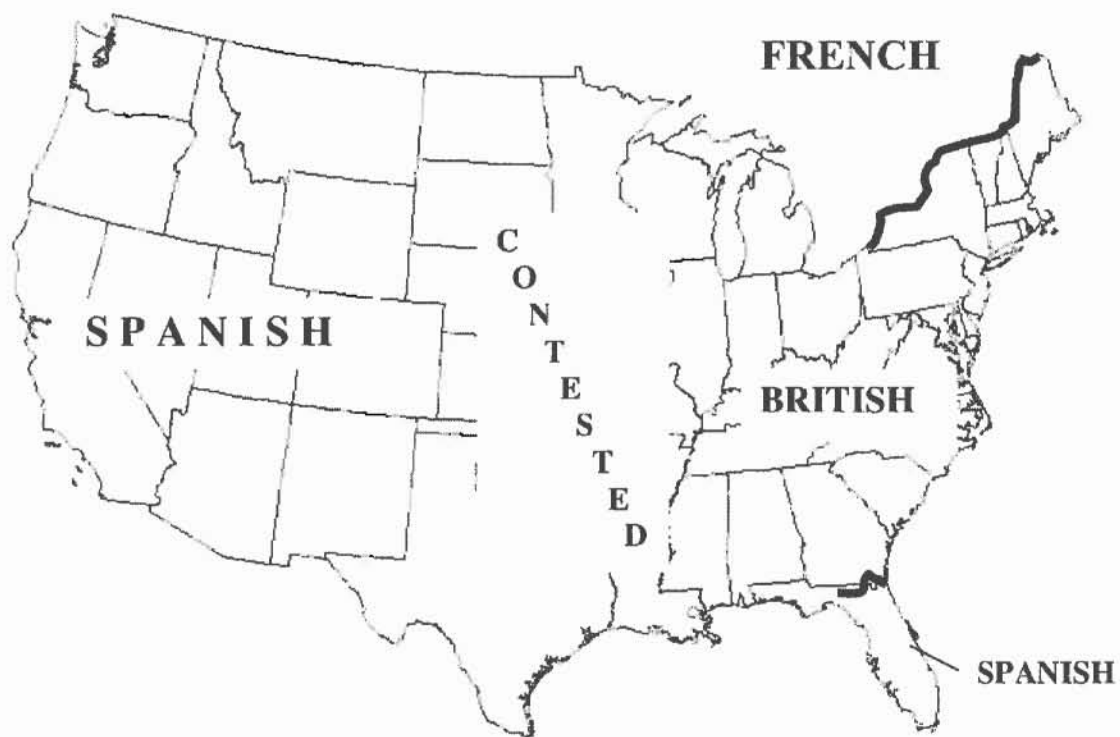


Figure 1. Land Claims by the European Powers – c1632 Through c1682

In 1666, Rene' Robert Cavelier La Salle (b. 1643 – d. 1687) settled in Canada. In 1669 he sold his holdings and organized an expedition to try to find China by way of the Ohio River, which (apparently from stories originating with the Indians) he believed drained into the Pacific Ocean. He descended the Ohio River at least as far as present-day Louisville, KY. For a number of reasons, the expedition failed at that point, and he returned to Canada.

In 1673 La Salle became convinced that the Ohio River actually drained into the Gulf of Mexico. With the consent of the Governor of Canada, he visited France in 1674 and again in 1677 where he received patents from King Louis XIV – in 1674 he received a land patent, and in 1677 he received a patent empowering him to undertake formal exploration (at his cost) in the name of the King.

In early 1682 La Salle set out from Canada on a quest to travel the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf. He reached the Mississippi River in February 1682, and drifted downriver, reaching the Gulf on 9 April 1682. He erected a column, and formally established a claim for the Louisiana Territory:<sup>3</sup>

In the name of the most high, mighty, invincible, and victorious prince, Louis the Great, by the grace of God, King of France and of Navarre, fourteenth of that name, this ninth day of April, one thousand six hundred and eighty-two, I, in virtue of the commission of His Majesty which I hold in my hand, and which may be seen by all whom in may concern, have taken, and do now take, in the name of His Majesty and of his successors to the crown, possession of this country of Louisiana, the seas, harbors, ports, bays, adjacent straits, and all the nations, people, provinces, cities, towns, villages, mines, minerals, fisheries, streams, and rivers comprised in the extent of said Louisiana, from the mouth of the great river St. Louis on the eastern side, otherwise called Ohio, Aligin, Sipore, or Chukagona, and this with the consent of the Chaonanons, Chickachas, and other people dwelling therein, with whom we have made alliance; as also along the river Colbert, or Mississippi, and rivers which discharge themselves therein, from its source, beyond the country of the Kious or Nadoucessions, and this with their consent, and with the consent of the Motantes, Illinois, Mesiganeas, Natches, Koroas, which are the most considerable nations dwelling therein, with whom also we have made alliance, either by ourselves or by others in our behalf, as far as its mouth by the sea, or Gulf of Mexico, about the twenty-seventh degree of the elevation of the North Pole and also to the mouth of the river of Palms; upon the assurance which we have received from all these nations that we are the first Europeans who have descended or ascended the said river Colbert; hereby protesting against all who may in future undertake to invade any or all of these countries, people, or lands, above described, to the prejudice of the rights of His Majesty, acquired by the consent of the nations herein named. Of which, and all that can be needed, I hereby

take to witness those who hear me and demand an act of the notary as required by law.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, La Salle extended the control of France over the area shown in Figure 2.

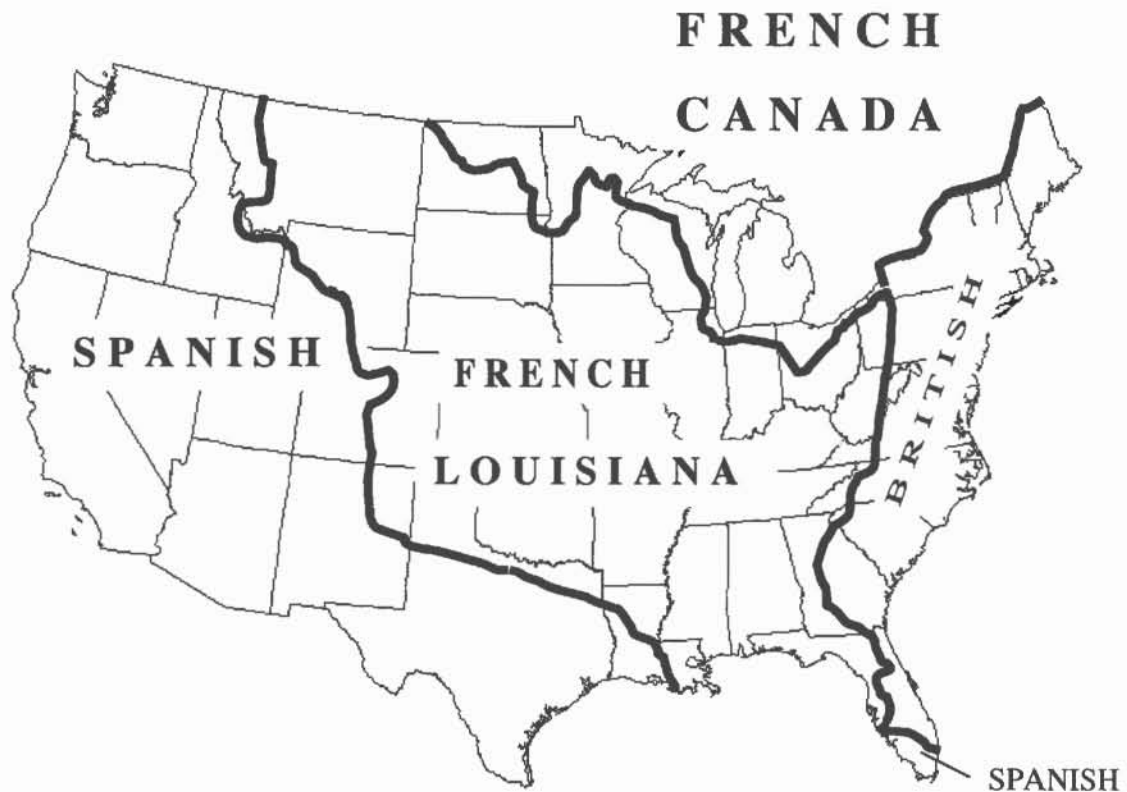


Figure 2. Land Claims by the European Powers – c1682 Through c1763

### 3. Territorial Issues as a Result of the French and Indian War.

Things remained more or less stable for a century, during which settlement of the continent proceeded slowly. France and Great Britain became engaged in a conflict that has been called the Seven Year War – in which a nine-year chapter (1754-1763) was fought in North America and became known as the French and Indian War. France was defeated. By treaty of 3 November 1762, France ceded the entire Louisiana Territory to Spain; however, as a part of the Treaty of Paris, France and Spain collectively ceded that

portion of the Louisiana Territory east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain on 10 February 1763. Therefore, the land actually delivered by France to Spain consisted of the Louisiana Territory west of the Mississippi River. France also ceded the lower portion of Canada to Great Britain (basically conforming to our present-day northern boundary east of the Great Lakes). Figure 3 shows the geographical situation in mid 1763.

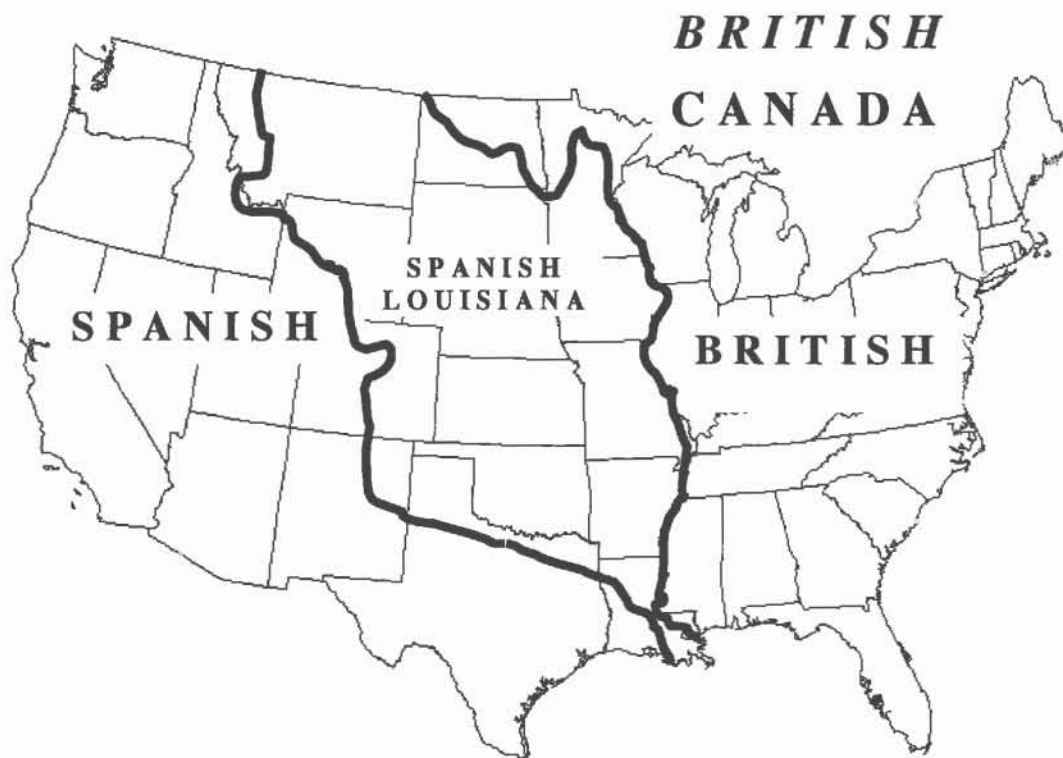


Figure 3. Land Claims by the European Powers – c1763 Through 1800

#### 4. Subsequent Developments

The territory east of the Mississippi River and south of 31° Latitude was retroceded by Great Britain to Spain in 1783 as a result of the treaties ending the Revolutionary War.

The territory that had been British passed to the United States at the end of the Revolutionary War, via the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

By secret treaty on 1 October 1800, Spain retroceded the land that had been ceded to them by France, including portions of what is now Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida



below the 31<sup>st</sup> Latitude. It was this land that later, in 1803, became the Louisiana Purchase (though that part that falls in what is now modern-day Florida was excluded).

New Orleans, though under Spanish control from 1762 to 1800, retained a French flavor. France did not relinquish its colonies throughout the Caribbean Sea, and much coinage from these colonies circulated in southern Louisiana.

## 5. Conclusion

During the colonial period (roughly 1500-1800) France owned and controlled vast areas of what is now the United States. Ergo, coins that were made by the French for those areas, coins that were made in those areas, and coins that circulated extensively in them, should – by my initial definitions – fall within the larger corpus of US Colonial Coins.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> "CANADA (History)," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., Volume 5, pp156-157; 1910.

<sup>2</sup> Maps are synthesized for those contained in two sources:

(1) Bond, Frank. "The Louisiana Purchase: An Historical Sketch from the Files of the General Land Office Reprinted in Commemoration of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase," United States Government Printing Office, 1952, Map Plates 1 through 5.

(2) National Geographic Society, "The Territorial Growth of the United States," Map 20025, September 1987.

<sup>3</sup> "La Salle, Rene Robert Cavelier," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., Volume 16, 1910, pp. 230-231.

<sup>4</sup> Bond, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

The Annual C4 Auction will occur on Saturday, 1 December 2007. It will again be under the auspices of Chris McCawley and Bob Grellman (M&G), with cataloging by Tom Rinaldo. This sale has always proved to be a major event, with spirited bidding. M&G is now beginning to accept consignments for this sale. Why not look through your collection, and consign your duplicates or coins that no longer fit your collecting parameters to this auction? If you want to discuss this, give Chris [REDACTED] or Bob [REDACTED] a call.

## HOW NOT TO BUY COINS AT AUCTION

(Dave Wnuck and John Agre)

We felt compelled to write this article as a sort of numismatic public service announcement after watching all kinds of people buy all kinds of coins at auction over the last couple of decades.

Now, before the inevitable emails we'll get from people claiming we are biased, or conflicted, or only trying to get people to eschew auctions and instead pay more for coins from us, we'll be clear right from the start:

1. Sometimes coins purchased at auction are a really good deal.
2. Sometimes coins purchased at auction are a terrible deal.
3. And often they are in-between.

Before we delve into the 'Hows', lets talk about the 'Whats' – as in 'What's in a typical auction'? We think it breaks down like this:

- Nice, fresh eye appealing coins properly or sometimes conservatively graded.
- Heavily conserved and enhanced coins (which might just be the fresh, eye appealing coins properly or conservatively graded which sold in the last auction).
- Ugly, unappealing and/or overgraded coins which someone is just looking to get rid of and so has dumped them in an auction. We know about these, because sometimes we consign such coins which we have acquired as part of a collection, or which we took as part of a trade, and which are just not good enough for us to put on our website.

Any type of coin can be a 'good deal' *per se*, provided the price is fair and the buyer is getting what he thinks he's getting. Let's repeat that last part using italics and an underline for emphasis: *Provided that the buyer is getting what he thinks he's getting.*

If someone knowingly buys a coin which has been heavily conserved, but pays a correspondingly low price, that could be a good deal. Or if he buys a fantastic, eye appealing original coin for top dollar, that could be good too.

Problems usually arise when a buyer misjudges the coins he's bidding on . . . or just flat out overpays . . . or both (that 'both' can be a real killer).

So, knowing what we now know, how do you not misjudge the coins in an auction, and not overpay for them? In other words, how do you not buy coins at auction?

**Never buy a coin sight unseen.** OK, we know this is obvious, and it's hardly new news, but an awful lot of people still seem to do it. If you try to bid on coins you have not seen, you'll end up having to bid 'safe' numbers, and if you do that, you stand an excellent chance of getting all the lousy ones, and very little chance at all of getting any good ones.

**Don't 'wing it.'** While you are winging it, there are going to be experts in the room who have studied the coins, know exactly what's been conserved or repaired, have detailed information about recent comparable sales prices, know what similar items are in dealer inventories, etc. If you compete with these experts, and you haven't done your homework, on which coins do you think you will be the high bidder?

**Don't buy stuff at auction you can get for less elsewhere.** A lot of coins that sell in auctions are actually available for less elsewhere, and again we know this from personal experience. We'll sometimes have a coin in stock for a while with no takers, eventually consign it to an auction unreserved and see it sell for far more than we were asking for it. Now, we realize that many people have no idea who we are and have never seen our website, but probably have heard of Heritage - but we are not the only coin dealers who have observed this phenomenon. We have no explanation for this other than some bidders not doing enough homework (see above), or some people who have convinced themselves to only buy at auction because its 'cheaper.' Here's a tip: often it isn't.

**Never assume all of the other bidders are fools.** If an MS65 coin is in an auction and you bid by phone, sight unseen, and snag it for what seems a bargain price, do you think it is more likely to be because (a) all of the experts who flew in to view the lots and carefully study the coins simply missed the boat? or (b) it was an inferior coin for the grade?

**Never assume all of the other bidders are not fools.** If you buy a coin at auction, do not assume that the price you paid is safe, or indicative of actual market value simply because there was another guy one increment below you. Sometimes the under-bidder has absolutely no idea what he's doing. And, even if he was ready to buy the coin for a little less than you at the auction, these guys have a way of evaporating after the sale -- or of going out in the hall outside the auction room afterward and telling everyone that the coin went for too much money, and that they are relieved that they didn't actually win it (we cannot tell you how many times we've seen this -- it happens at literally every auction).

**Heck, never assume anything.** The catalog description must be correct, right? And the grade on the holder should be accurate, shouldn't it? And the catalog photo must be a pretty good representation of the item being sold, don't you think? And there must be a whole bunch of people on the other end of that bank of phones along the wall, right? And that bank of phones is actually plugged in, isn't it? And surely you are bidding against other live bidders, and not simply the owner of the coin (who might actually be the auction company itself), his proxy, or his reserve, aren't you?

**Don't get caught up in the excitement of the moment.** Have you ever gone to an auction planning to bid a maximum of \$x on a lot, and ended up winning it at \$x + 20%? It's easy to do. Sometimes you'll see someone catch auction fever, or possibly just revel in the thrill of bidding huge money in front of a room full of people and feeling like a big shot. In our experience, this feeling of euphoria tends to dissipate quickly when the auction bill arrives.

**At a live session, never employ the 'Statue of Liberty' bid.** Ever go to a live session and see a guy bid on a lot by thrusting his card in the air and then just leaving it there? Did you know that there are people at every auction who might bid against you in that scenario just to make you pay a little more? Or maybe they are having a friend protect a consigned coin. Or maybe they own another example of that same type and see an opportunity to boost the value of their own piece. Whatever the case, broadcasting to the world your intention to keep on bidding is not a good idea, and isn't likely to save you money.

**Don't 'ride' someone else's bids.** Some people feel a sense of confidence if another more knowledgeable person is also bidding on a particular lot, and adopt an 'I'll bid if Mr. X bids' approach. Problem is, these knowledgeable people are knowledgeable for a reason, which is that they are pretty smart, they don't like people riding their bids, and they will sometimes take an opportunity to ride you directly into paying too much for something. Or, perhaps they are executing a bid for a customer who "must" have it, and is willing to pay some crazy number to buy it.

And, finally -

**Do not cut your bid.** If you do identify the right coin to bid on, and set a reasonable maximum, then don't shoot yourself in the foot by cutting your bid. Instead, familiarize yourself ahead of time with the standard increments that most (but not all) coin auction companies use, choose a maximum bid that falls on a 'regular' increment, and then plan your strategy so that, if the bidding gets that high, you land squarely on your maximum number. It's not easy, and it takes some planning, but it's worth it to avoid cutting a bid and thus clearly announcing to everyone in the room (usually with the help of an extremely loud auctioneer) that 'Hey everyone, one more bid will beat me!'

There are other ways not to buy coins at auction, but we think this list is a decent start - in the meantime, we recommend a liberal helping of caution at auctions, along with a heaping side order of common sense.

## COUNTERFEIT NEW ENGLAND COPPER SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE, PART 2

(John N. Lupia III)

The Winter 2006 C4 Newsletter (Volume 14, Number 4) contains criticisms by Kenneth Bressett of my original article "COUNTERFEIT NEW ENGLAND COPPER SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE," in the Fall 2006 *C4 Newsletter* (vol. 14, no. 3) to which this update partly serves to address.

A correction to the original article regards an error made in Section V. The citation of Kays should have been in Section II supporting the fact maravedis circulated in the colonies, showing Mason's theory is tenable.

An omission was inadvertently made regarding the Henry Sewell Adams counterfeit Pine Tree Shilling specimen struck over a 1723 half-penny of George I that was originally owned by Charles Payson, Portland, Maine.<sup>1</sup> Stickney owned a larger specimen stamped by different dies.<sup>2</sup>

The Pine Tree Shillings of copper that were silvered and dated 1650 are believed to be 19<sup>th</sup> century counterfeits.<sup>3</sup>

Several criticisms voiced by Bressett now need to be addressed. First, Bressett criticizes my critique of Newman who wrote regarding the transcript of the trial of Pickering: "I think it is important to point out that only Spanish bitts (New Bitts) were counterfeited." The trial transcript makes it very clear that Pickering did indeed counterfeit Boston money explicitly stating witness testimony from Mary Bartholomew that she was given 40£ 12d, and, that, "some of ye pieces were produced in Court." Bressett persists in the erroneous opinion "that no early documentary evidence has been located that Massachusetts silver was counterfeited for circulation" an opinion that is clearly and blatantly confuted by the trial transcript.

Second, Bressett incorrectly claims I have postulated "Pickering struck counterfeit copper imitations of N.E. 12d and 6d coins. I only offered as a remote possibility that, since Pickering did counterfeit N.E. silver coins, he might have tested the dies on Spanish copper pieces, possibly those or ones like them discovered by Mason.

Mason reported the finding of the two pieces that evidenced a die link to known N.E. silver pieces. Bressett has summarily dismissed out of hand that Mason knew anything about Spanish copper coinage or that they were frequently counterstamped to revalue them. How Bressett has made this assumption is unclear since it is clear that 19<sup>th</sup> century American numismatists did know about them at least as early as Kunze.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, Mason's business partner John W. Haseltine, cataloged Spanish coppers in various coin auctions.<sup>6</sup> When Mason wrote that article in June 1884, (published in July) he had already been living in Boston about six months. There he met regularly with and consulted his old friends who were members of the New England Numismatic and Archaeological Society, including Crosby. It seems untenable that no



one in New England numismatic circles with whom Mason came in contact, which is where and when he acquired these maravedis in Boston, neither knew anything about them nor that they were commonly known to bear counterstamps. This unlikelihood is compounded by the fact that 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish coppers were known to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century American numismatists evidenced by Kunze, for example, who mentioned them listed among the 900 coin specimens in his cabinet.

Third, Bressett claims counterstamping of maravedi took place in the mid-seventeenth century, failing to acknowledge that it began as early as 1603.<sup>7</sup>

Fourth, Bressett's criticism about a significant omission of fake copper N.E. 12d and 6d references the well known, so-called copper penny catalogued in the Clay cabinet, first by himself and later on by Strobridge. Bressett seems unaware that a 1d. (penny) is neither a 12d nor a 6d. Regardless, his citation only affirms Mason's later perspective. Evidently, Clay himself as well as Strobridge thought the Massachusetts Bay colony had used foreign copper for coinage with their counterstamps as the Clay catalog shows.

Fifth, Bressett seems unaware that the Massachusetts Bay Colony authorized stamping foreign coins, which is why 19<sup>th</sup> century American numismatists were open to specimens like those cited by Mason and the one in the Clay cabinet.<sup>8</sup> I, too, think that Mason may have been onto a possible die link with counterstamped maravedis and N.E. coinage since a similar one is in my cabinet. (See Figure 1) What I mean is that prior to the 1652 coin-age a very similar die was used, but, with a round incuse rather than the later square. This seems tenable since other specimens are known counterstamped with round dies known to have been used with foreign coins. The use of round and square incuse with either the denomination XII or VI or corporate name NE would distinguish the counterstamps as round for foreign coins and square for Massachusetts Bay Colony silver planchets.



Figure 1. Counterstamped Maravedi Copper

It will do well here to cite the texts that reveal this:

"Although no copy of this order is known to be now in existence, it was, beyond a doubt, as will be seen by the reference to it in the preface to the act of May 26-27, 1652, for the purpose of authorizing the appointment of some person or persons, whose duty it should be to examine and test the quality and worth of the



foreign moneys in circulation, and to stamp upon each piece its proper value, according to some unified standard, probably sterling.”<sup>9</sup>

“fforasmuch as the new order about mony is not well Resented by the people and full of difficultjes, and vnlikely to take effect in regard no psons are found willing to try and stampe the same.”<sup>10</sup>

“The printed order mentioned in the act last referred to, is the first legislation of the New England colonies, regarding coinage, of which we have been able to find any trace; and it is the earliest known authority for the affixing of a stamp upon foreign coin as a token of its acceptance or endorsement by the colonies, in lieu of a coinage of their own . . .”<sup>11</sup>

Sixth, Bressett comments that by 1683 the N.E. coinage of 1652 was nearly gone out of circulation. Which N.E. coinage of 1652 he refers to is not clear since colonial specialists recognize four distinct periods of Boston shillings all dated 1652.<sup>12</sup> Neither does Bressett provide evidence to support this claim even if he were specific about which N.E. coinage he refers. This claim by Bressett seems very odd considering that in 1682 a Boston shilling was valued at 14d, New Jersey money of account in West New Jersey.<sup>13</sup> In 1694 they were valued at 15d. in Maryland.<sup>14</sup>

Seventh, another incorrect assumption made by Bressett is that maravedi coppers, counterstamped or not, are not well known to myself and the members of C4. This criticism seems peculiar in light of the fact that I cited Kays findings on maravedis found in Virginia. Besides, all C4 members who participate in the internet discussions from time to time discuss maravedis.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Crosby, Sylvester Sage, *The Early Coins of America* (Boston, 1875) : 369

<sup>2</sup> Crosby, 370

<sup>3</sup> See AJN for counterfeits surfacing in 1856. “Counterfeit ‘N.E.’ and Pine Tree Money,” *American Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. VII, No. 1, July (1872) : 4-6. See also Ed Cogan, May 7-8, 1872, Edmund J. Cleveland sale, page 29, lot 585

<sup>4</sup> John C. Kunze, ‘Description of a Cabinet of Coins and Medals Ancient and Modern,’ *The Medical Repository and Review of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Science*, Vol. III, Second Edition (1805) : 351-359, especially pages at the bottom of 358 and top of 359.

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, John W. Haseltine, *Centennial Coin and Curiosity Sale*, Part VII, Collection of B. Da Silva, November 6-8, 1876, page 56-57, lots 1198-1206 are Spanish copper coins of Philip II and Philip IV.

<sup>6</sup> Garcia de Paso, Jose Isidoro, “The 1628 Castillian Crydown : A test of competing theories of the price level,” *Revista de Economía Pública*, 163-(4/2002): 74. Lea says 1602. See Henry Charles Lea, *A History of the Inquisition of Spain*. (New York : The Macmillan Company; London : Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1906-1907.) Volume 1, Appendix 1, vellon coinage.

<sup>7</sup> Mossman, Philip, *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation : A Numismatic, Economic and Historical Correlation* (ANS : NY, 1993) Fig. 15 is an example of a Potosi reale counterstamped in such a fashion, which the Mossman considers to be a later fake, but I consider possibly authentic.

<sup>8</sup> Crosby, 30

<sup>9</sup> Crosby 31, 34 and plate

<sup>10</sup> Crosby, 31

<sup>11</sup> Mossman, 84

<sup>12</sup> Mossman, 80

<sup>13</sup> *ibid.*

## A FIRST FOR C4

Mike Reynolds, after careful and cautious deliberation, has joined the ranks of C4. Along with his dues, he sent a donation – an original Virginia note (see images below). The note is printed on very fragile rice paper, and is housed in an archival holder. Roger Moore received the donation and scanned the image. Due to its fragility, he left it in the holder during the scanning process – he states “this is the first time I have not freed an encapsulated colonial from its holder!”

Ray Williams vouches for the fact that this is the first gift of a period colonial numismatic item to C4, and has stated “on behalf of all the members of C4, I’d like to thank Mike for his gift. We look forward to incorporating this bill into our exhibits. Leo will maintain it in our Library – at least until someone donates a building to house our collections!”



## EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY REFERENCE TO MASSACHUSETTS SILVER COINAGE

(Geoffrey Stevens)

The Massachusetts Historical Society has a copy of an early eighteenth century pamphlet with reference to Massachusetts silver coinage. This is one of the earliest references known in regards to the coinage. The pamphlet was printed in Boston in 1719 for B. Gray and J. Edwards, at their shops on the north and south side of the Town-House, on King Street. The pamphlet reprints an original letter dated 6 March 1718. The letter is titled, and apparently written to someone in Boston:

The present Melancholy Circumstances of the Province Consider'd and Methods for Redress humbly proposed, in a Letter from one in the Country to one in Boston.

*Sir; Since our last Discourse about the uneasie threatening Circumstances of this Province, as to the Money or a Medium of trade; I have employed my thoughts somewhat in the matter, and I'll briefly hint some things that have occur'd to my mind.*

*Our Fathers that first settled the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, brought some Gold and Silver with them; after a while, some Money was Coined here, as Shillings, Six-pences, &c. But in the process of time, (even long before Silver Money was generally Exported, or carried out of the Province,) the greatest part of the passing Money here, was Spanish, viz. Pieces of Eight, Half Pieces, Eight Pences, &c. This Money I suppose was chiefly the Returns made for our Fish, Lumber, Horses, Grain, Beef, Pork, &c. Exported or carried out of the Country. I think this demonstrates, that in those times what we Exported of our own produce (or the fruits of our own labor), was more than what was Imported from other Places, either for Food, Drink, or Cloathing; therefore to make the Balance, Money came in, and continued circulating among us. In those times the Wealth of this Country was on the growing hand. But of late years, I'll suppose the Twenty last part, our Silver Money has been generally Exported, so that now there is not a Penny of it passing between Man and Man.*

Although this contemporary reference to minting coinage in Boston is brief and basic, it is one of the very earliest I have seen. The expressed views on the situation of a lacking circulating specie is interesting. The writer goes on to speculate on some of the reasons for the imbalance of trade, and in doing so he reveals some of his own "Puritanical" sensibility.

*What is Imported into the Province, & Spent here, is, or should be Paid for; else we are dis-honest, which does not become Men much less Christians, as we are: And if the Fruits and Produce of our own Labor in this Province, won't make a sufficient Export to pay for what we receive from Abroad, and Spend here; then the Silver goes to make the Balance, and pay the remainder.*

*And this is the very Case, the short and long of the Business. Our Silver is gone to pay the over-plus of Imported Goods, above what our own Produce Exported, could pay. Among the Commodities Imported, some are really useful for us, which we are not able to raise, or make our selves, some not at all, some not as yet, or not enough of it, as Canvas, Riggin, Brass, Copper, Pewter, Tin-Ware, Glass for Windows, Sugar, Melossoes, Cotton-Wool, Paper, Needles, Pins, Scythes, Sickles, Cutlary Ware, &c. I suppose our own Produce (if we joined Prudence and Diligence together) which might be Exported, would be enough to pay for all the Imported Commodities, which are really needful and useful for us.*

*But then many things have been Imported, which have not been necessary, yet very costly; such as Silver and Gold Lace, worn on Cloaths and Shoes, Velvet, Rich Silk, Sattin, Silk Stockings, Fine Broad-Cloths, Camlets, Perriwigs, Fine costly Shoes and Pattoons, Ribbons, Rich Lace, Silk-Hankerchiefs, Fine Hatts, Gloves of great price and little worth, China Ware, very Costly-Looking-Glasses, Cane-Chairs, Costly Beds & Furniture, &c. We in the Country, think that some scores of Thousands of Pounds in late Years, have been spent by this Province in these things, and that the Province would have been much better without them. I don't now contend against these things as being Unlawful in themselves; but for us to send off our Silver Money to buy them, & now not have a Penny to pass between Man & Man for our necessary business, I think has not been our Prudence but our great Folly.*

*Possibly some will say, the fault is in the Middling or Poorer sort of People, who buy these things, and go above their Ability, in doing it. The reply is, Possibly it has been great weakness in the Richer sort to lead in these things, and greater folly in the Poorer to follow them.*

*However, its matter of Fact, that there's much needless Expense in sundry of these things, and tho' some Richer Persons or Famiklies can bear the Cost of these Expenses, yet Poorer ones (who too much affect them) can't; but whether such things are spent by Rich or Poor, its all one to the Province in general. For what's Imported and spent in the Province must be paid for by Export from it; and if the Produce of our Labour won't do it, our Silver and Gold must go (or rather is gone) to make it up.*

The writer goes on to discuss many different aspects of life, and his viewpoints regarding excess and waste. In addition to silver leaving the colony for payment of imports, both necessary and not, silver was obviously hoarded. Increased circulation of paper notes would drive silver out of the daily exchange in accordance with Gresham's Law. Paper money as a substitute for silver is addressed in this manner:

*The last I have heard is, that when Silver Money is Sold (Now and then a little as some can get it) it fetches Eleven or Twelve Shillings an Ounce in Paper Money; whereas according to our Law (Seventeen Penny Weight as Six Shillings) Silver Money is but a very small matter more than Seven Shillings an Ounce. This plainly shows the low value People have for Paper Money. It seems as tho' the more 'tis increased'd the less 'tis valued.*

NOTE: on page 32 of Dr. Phil Mossman's book *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation*, there is a table outlining trade deficits between England and New England in the early Eighteenth century. This information from English Customs shows a deficit of 88,000 pounds from 1706 through 1712.



## THE EARLIEST AMERICAN DESCRIPTION OF A ST. PATRICK FARTHING

(John N. Lupia II)

Perhaps the first numismatic reference to the St. Patrick coinage made on American soil was written by Rev. Johann Christoph Kunze (1744-1807), a German Lutheran pastor. He is among the earliest known numismatists in 18<sup>th</sup> century America and a contemporary and friend of Pierre Eugène Du Simitière.

While Kunze lived in Philadelphia he donated a 1727 Heller Scheide Müntz, a German copper penny, to the American Museum formed by Du Simitière.<sup>1</sup> In 1800, while living in New York, he published a description of his mahogany coin cabinet with its 14 boards giving very brief descriptions of some of the 900 coins it contained. This essay was addressed to Dr. Mitchill who republished it in 1805.

Among the copper coin descriptions on the 5<sup>th</sup> board he writes: "Another with a not very democratic inscription, Floreat Rex, pereat plebs."<sup>2</sup> The description of the St. Patrick farthing implies the legend QUIESCAT PLEBS was worn or defaced causing Kunze to read it as PEREAT PLEBS. The Latin word *pereo* has strong negative meaning when *plebs* is the direct object giving the sense in one of these possible translations: "May the people pass away," "May the people come to nothing," or "May the people be destroyed," or "May the people perish."

The citation of the St. Patrick farthing in the Kunze collection tells us that educated 18<sup>th</sup> century numismatists in early America were unaware of the English numismatic literature published on it up to that time. It also tells us that Kunze acquired the farthing sometime between 1770 and 1800 either in Philadelphia or New York. Kunze had a policy that whoever took one of the duplicate coins he kept loose in a wooden chest they had to replace it with one he did not have in his cabinet. This is the most satisfactory explanation of how he acquired it.

### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Orosz, Joel J., *The Eagle that is Forgotten*. (Wolfeboro, 1988) : 32

<sup>2</sup> John Christian Kunze, 'Description of a Cabinet of Coins and Medals Ancient and Modern,' *The Medical Repository and Review of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Science*, Vol. III, Second Edition (1805) : 358.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>C4 Revenue/Expenses</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>	DONATED LOTS	pending	\$16,781.35
	AUCTION REVENUE	pending	\$6,643.22
	DUES	\$7,155.00	\$8,400.00
	CD INTEREST	\$3,201.27	\$1,042.96
	BOOK SALES		
	Vlack	\$245.00	\$2,414.00
	Jordan	\$1,635.00	\$1,198.00
	NEWSLETTER ADS	\$400.00	\$275.00
	MISC. SALES	\$390.94	\$2,704.93
	<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>\$13,027.21</u></b>	<b><u>\$39,459.46</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	BOD BREAKFAST MEETING	\$250.00	\$209.72
	NEWSLETTER	\$6,700.00	\$13,473.00
	BOOK		
	Vlack	\$623.61	\$1,165.50
	Jordan	\$963.40	
	INSURANCE	\$325.60	\$325.60
	POSTAGE & MISC	\$587.87	\$1,402.56
	ANA DUES	\$72.00	
	TAX PREPARATION	\$250.00	
	ROOM RENTAL/FOOD AUCTION	\$5,490.10	\$4,543.07
	<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>\$15,262.58</u></b>	<b><u>\$21,119.45</u></b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	CASH (Checking Account)	\$21,212.64	\$33,499.40
	CD \$25,000 due 3/2007	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	CD \$25,000 due 9/2007	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	CD \$25,000 due 4/2008	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
	CD \$10,000 due	\$10,000.00	
	<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>\$106,212.64</u></b>	<b><u>\$108,499.40</u></b>
<b>OWED C4</b>	2004 C-4 AUCTION	\$2,689.00	\$2,689.00

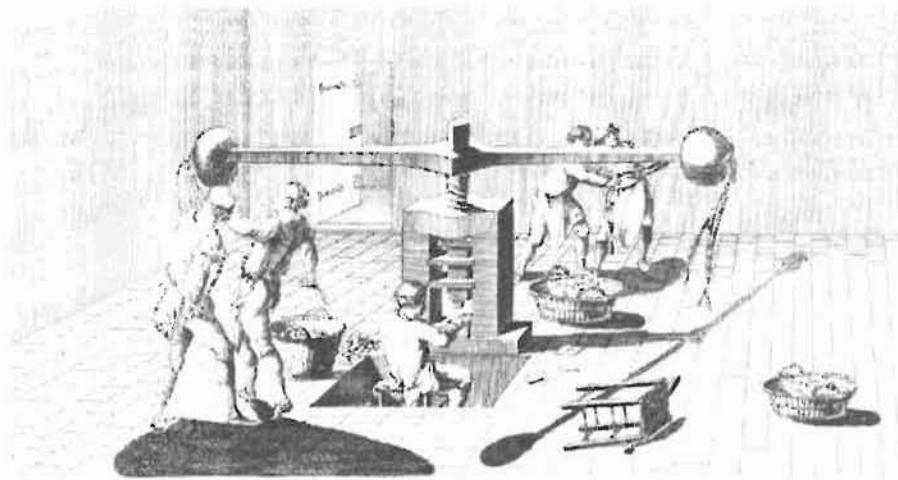
## C4 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2006

**Annual C4 Convention.** The 2007 Annual C4 Convention will be held at the same location (the Radisson Hotel Park Square, 200 Stuart Street, Boston, Massachusetts) as last year. Dealer set-up and the C4 Reception will be on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Activities will continue through Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with our auction the evening of December 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be provided as this date approaches, but mark your calendars now!



# THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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Are you interested in the latest findings in the field of early American numismatics? If so, *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)* is for you. Now in its 47th year, *CNL* has published some of the most important studies in this field. *CNL* is published three times a year by The American Numismatic Society (ANS). For more information contact Joanne Isaac at the ANS: e-mail [isaac@numismatics.org](mailto:isaac@numismatics.org); telephone (212) 571-4470 Ext. 1306. Go to the ANS website at [www.numismatics.org/cnl/](http://www.numismatics.org/cnl/) to subscribe online or download a subscription form.

### *NEW DUES INFORMATION.....*

**Starting in 2008, C4 dues will be increased to \$25!**

**2007 Dues are still \$20**

**We have suspended accepting Life Membership Applications until the C4 Board has sought financial advice with respect to restructuring the costs vs. expenses.**

**2007 Dues are due NOW. If you have an "06" on your mailing label, please make our Treasurer's job easier by sending your \$20 check to him ASAP! See the included flyer for details.**

## C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

**I am happy to announce that the library now has a complete set of Ford Catalogs -- in both softcover and hard bound -- Thanks Joe Lasser and Vicken Yegparian!**

Thank You to all for your donations to the C4 Library. Your contributions are appreciated by all C4 members. Below are new items donated to the club which are now available for loan to all C4 members. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org).

### Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Kleeberg, John M., *The New Yorke in America Token*, Coinage of the Americas Conference at the American Numismatic Society, New York NY, 4 May 1991 (57 pages) - Donated by Todd Gredesky

*Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part II (Washington coins, medals and tokens; Early American coins and tokens)*, 11 May 2004, New York NY with PRL – Donated by Joe Lasser

*Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part III (Colonial currency, Fractional currency)*, 11 - 12 May 2004, New York NY with PRL – Donated by Joe Lasser

*Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part IV (Hard times tokens, Encased postage stamps)*, 23 June 2004, New York NY (2 copies) – Donated by Stacks with help from Vicken Yegparian

*Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XV (American Paper Currency: American Revolution, Confederation Periods, Continental Currency, Guaranteed US Notes, Civil War Scrip & Banknotes)*, 4 October 2006, New York NY (hard bound copy) – Donated by Stacks

*Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XVI (Medallic Distinctions Awarded to First Peoples; Nueva Espana, La Nouvelle-France, British North America, The United States of America)*, 17 October 2006, New York NY (hard bound copy) – Donated by Stacks

*Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XVII (American Paper Currency: Currency of the American Revolutionary and Early Confederation Periods, Continental Currency, Guaranteed US Bank Notes, Colonial and Early American Change Bills, Canadian 18<sup>th</sup> Century Paper Currency)*, 21 March 2007, New York NY – Donated by Stacks

I would also like to thank the American Numismatic Society for their on going donations of the Colonial Newsletter and the Early American Coppers Club for donations of the Penny Wise Newsletter.

**NOTE:** Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. My email is: Leo\_J\_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at [REDACTED]

**Call for Exhibits. CONSIDER EXHIBITING AT C4!** We need exhibitors. Anyone interested in learning more about exhibiting at the C4 convention in Boston is invited to contact me. I'll send you an information sheet and answer any questions you might have. Exhibiting is a fun way to share and enjoy the hobby. The C4 convention exhibits are non-competitive (no judging or awards), and contribute significantly to the enjoyment of attending the annual convention for everyone. Exhibiting is not only for those with high grade or exceptionally rare coins. Everyone has coins and related material that others would enjoy seeing. In addition to individual exhibits, we are looking for people to participate with others in group exhibits. If you'd like to discuss exhibiting, please contact me via [buell@vectrafitness.com](mailto:buell@vectrafitness.com) or [REDACTED]

Thanks, Buell Ish, C4 Exhibit Chairman

### **Classified Ads**

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	\$50	\$80	\$105	\$130	4 1/2"x7 1/2"
1/2 page	\$30	\$55	\$75	\$95	4 1/2"x3 3/4"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

I am interested in acquiring counterstamped Wood's Hibernia and Wood's Rosa Americana halfpennies and farthings, or photos of them. Unusual examples from these series are always of interest. I'm also seeking unusual edge markings on Kentucky pieces. Syd Martin: [sfmartin5@comcast.net](mailto:sfmartin5@comcast.net) or [REDACTED]

Wanted: Early American communion tokens (for purchase or trade).  
Bob Merchant, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

FOR SALE: CD, Special Edition 5.0, High-resolution digital images of my reference collection of Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish 1/2d & 1/4d, well over 1,000 different specimens. Organized by Major Type, Date and Families where appropriate, with additional material on Major Errors and Die Breaks...\$55 post paid. Registered buyers, if you'd like, will be added to a distribution list that will receive updates by email with images attached of new specimens of major varieties and Families as they are identified. For more information, see [http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits\\_page3.html](http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits_page3.html)  
Clem Schettino, [REDACTED] [copperclem@comcast.net](mailto:copperclem@comcast.net)

2-71A VF-XF CC \$1300  
3-71B VF-XF CC \$1600  
8-74A VF-XF \$1500  
12-78B VF-XF \$1400  
13-78B VF \$1300  
VT-87C VF \$600  
23-88A VF late die state \$800

Ed Sarrafian, [REDACTED] (ershye@aol.com)

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*Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas* by the noted numismatist Robert A. Vlack. This is the first comprehensive guide to the billon coinages that circulated in the French colonies of the Americas, which included Canada, Louisiana and the French West Indies. An 18-page introduction discusses the history of the coins and includes a rarity listing of the various counterstamped billon coins authorized for use in Canada during the seventeenth century. This is followed by an extensive and well-illustrated catalogue of the coins (pp. 20-157) reflecting over thirty years of research by Vlack on this topic. The catalog proceeds from the *Mosquetaires* of 30 and 15 *deniers* to the billon *Sous Marqués* and Half-*Sous Marqués* and then to contemporary counterfeits. It next includes a full listing of billon coinage and counterstamped billon coins of the French West Indies, as well as a discussion of the coins known as "black dogs." The work was amended and edited by Philip L. Mossman with typesetting and graphic design by Gary Trudgen.

In the catalogue every denomination is divided into sections, one section for each of the various French mints producing that denomination; some denominations were issued from as many as thirty different mints! Each mint section contains an explanation of all the mintmasters and engravers associated with that mint during the years of issue. The specific coins from the mint are then cataloged by year with annotations on mintage, rarity and variants. There are numerous illustrations with enlarged details of overdates and errors that are especially useful to the user in identification. This is the first time such information has been made available in English.

The folio size hardcover book (x+157 pp.) is available for \$50.00 US plus \$5.00 for shipping (\$6.50 to Canada and \$13.50 to Europe) from Ray Williams. [REDACTED]

For further information on this book and other books published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club, as well as joining the organization, visit the C4 website at: [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org)

[illegible]

## An interesting selection of 18th century British Tokens

*plus some Regal & Colonial Coins and a few Odds and Ends*

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### Classic Literature Pertaining to Early North American Numismatics

**Bronson, Henry.** "A Historical Account of Connecticut Currency, Continental Money, and the Finances of the Revolution." *Papers of the New Haven Colony Historical Society*. Vol. 1 (1865). 8vo., (6), 170; (2), iv, 192, (2) pages [Bronson's work is paginated separately]. Brown boards, spine rebaked and labeled, some shelf wear. Endpapers taped. Pages clean and fresh. A very good copy. Quite scarce. \$160

Dr. Henry Bronson (1804-1893) was an accomplished medical doctor and published several important works on historical subjects. The present work was based on a series of papers read before the New Haven Colony Historical Society beginning on November 30, 1863. It examines the coinage of colonial Connecticut as well as its currency, and provides information on the early New England and Massachusetts coinage as well. Davis 147. Not in Attinelli.

**Fisher, J. Francis.** *Memoir of Samuel Breck, Late President of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. Read before the Board of Managers, and the Officers of the Institution, May 7, 1863.* Philadelphia: C. Sherman, Son & Co., printers, 1863. 8vo. 45, (1) pages. Tan paper wrappers, front wrap missing but present in photocopy; blind stamp on title, old vertical fold down the middle. Very good. \$60

Breck (1771-1862) was a prominent merchant and politician in Philadelphia and served in the state House of Representatives, the state Senate and the U.S. Congress. An active member of the American Philosophical Society, Breck read several papers before that Society, including one on the paper money of the revolution, "Historical Sketch of Continental Paper Money," which was read in 1843 at the centennial celebrations of the Society and published in the *Transactions of the Historical and Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society*. The American Philosophical Society's library also contains a manuscript by Breck on paper money: *Historical Sketch of the Continental Bills of Credit, from 1775 to 1781, with Specimens Thereof* (1840).

**The Historical Magazine, and Notes and Queries, Concerning the Antiquities, History and Biography of America.** Vol. IV (1860). New York: Charles B. Richardson & Co. 8vo. vi, 379, (1) pages, ads and wrappers bound in. Blue cloth, spine gilt, with small stains. Contents a bit shaken, ex libris stamp, else very good. \$100

A number of short articles on numismatic topics are included, with such topics as: a medal of Washington designed by Joseph Wright; the Castorland medal; the value of Continental money; Sommer Island coins; and the Georgius Triumpho token. Attinelli 109.

— Vol. VII (1863). New York: Charles B. Richardson & Co. 8vo. 387, (5) pages. Quarter leather, worn, hinges cracked; marbled boards, ex library label on spine, bookplate. Very good. \$75

Features a number of short notes and articles on numismatic subjects, including: an unusual token featuring William Pitt; a Washington coin; note of Henry Phillips's work on New Jersey bills of credit; New York colonial bills; the NE threepence; depreciation of Continental money; a small hoard of Pine Tree coins; the Confederatio coppers. Attinelli 109.

**O'Callaghan, E.B.** *The Documentary History of the State of New-York.* Volume III. Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850. 8vo. iv, (4), 1215, (3) pages; folding maps and engravings throughout. Original black cloth, worn, spine detached but present. Much foxing and staining throughout; various maps and other folded material the worse for wear. A reading copy. \$25

One of four volumes. O'Callaghan's work is of numismatic interest due to the present volume's Chapter 23, "Coins and Medals," which contains three beautifully executed engraved plates, the work of J.E. Gavit. These illustrate the Libertas Americana medal, the 1783 Washington "Unity States" cent, the Rosa Americana coinage of William Wood, and various coppers relating to New York State. While the condition of this copy is poor (as is the case with most extant copies), its importance is high.

**Slafter, Rev. Edmund.** "The Vermont Coinage." *Collections of the Vermont Historical Society*, Vol. 1 (1870). Two lithographic plates. Complete volume is 508 pages, with the Slafter work comprising pages 291-318. Original binding worn, hinges splitting but attached, pages and plates fine and unfoxed. Some pencil marks throughout the volume, but none on the pages of Slafter's work. \$400

Slafter's work on Vermont coins was the first specialized monograph on such a topic. While others had written short articles and general surveys of colonial coins, Slafter attempted a focused, serious look at one particular series. The version offered here constitutes its first printing in any form. It was offprinted in book form following its publication in the volume being offered here. While the offprint is a major rarity, the first printing offered here is still very scarce, with copies offered infrequently (and bringing as much as \$600 at auction). A nice copy of a genuinely scarce publication on colonials.

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